Drip Irrigation Technology

362. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have taken any step or propose to take any step for providing new, effective and cheapest technology for the drip irrigation everywhere in the country to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Netafim, an Israeli firm with pioneering expertise in drip irrigation has tied up with some Indian banks to facilitate loans for drip irrigation projects in the country; and

(d) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government has been promoting drip irrigation in the country. Presently the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Macro Management in Agriculture—; Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plan has drip irrigation as one of the activities. Precision Farming Development Centres (PFDCs) established at seventeen locations in the country are engaged in developing technology and for training the farmers on drip irrigation.

(c) and (d) Netafim Irrigation India Pvt. Ltd., a subsidiary of Netafim A.C.S., is an Indian company and has reportedly tied up with ICICI Bank in order to lend money to the farmers for acquiring drip irrigation systems.

Donation to Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research

† 363. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal of providing an additional donation of ten million dollars to Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research is under consideration during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.